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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God." BOOK OF MORMON, JACOB 4: 8.

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ENDURING REALITIES*

ELDER HYRUM G. SMITH

PRESIDING PATRIARCH OF THE CHURCH

I TRUST, my brethren and sisters, that the Spirit of the Lord may direct what I may say this afternoon. There have been so many good things pass through my mind while the conference has been in progress that it almost seems, at this present moment, that everything I ever thought of has been in the past.

I am very grateful for the testimony that has come to me through my experience in the work of the Lord, that it really is His work and that it is not the work of man, nor any set of men, but that it is a wonderful work established in the earth for the bringing about of the Lord's purposes concerning His children upon the earth.

I have met a few people who have not yet a full understanding of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith. They declare that it seems to be a myth or something that they cannot comprehend, something that does not seem a reality. But to me, ever since I was a small child and had the privilege of hearing the testimony of my parents and the teachers of the Church, the mission and life's work of the Prophet Joseph Smith have been wonderful realities. I picture certain important instances in the life of the prophet which seem to be more impressive than other instances.

*Address delivered at the fourth session of the Ninety-seventh Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 4, 1926.

For example, the occasion of his annual visits to the Hill Cumorah, and in fact his first vision of the Angel Moroni. Up to that time all of the artists and the scientists and the teachers of the world pictured to us that an angel was either a woman or a child. But here a man appears declaring himself to be an angel of the Lord, and coming directly from the presence of the Lord in answer to this boy's prayer. Joseph said he was frightened at first. Well, I think most of us would be just a little frightened. I fear that I would be more so than I am now. This angel declared that he was a man who had once lived upon this earth, and that he had come with a glorious message to declare to this young man, who had desired to know the truth. In all the anxiety of his heart and the earnestness of it, he had gone to his parents and friends and to the ministers, who were teaching religion so-called, and he had not found satisfaction. He did not find that which satisfied his heart, until finally he went to the Lord and received a satisfaction that was wonderful, beyond our power at times to appreciate. For the Lord, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ descended from heaven to answer the boy's question concerning his desire for the truth, and this was a reality, not a fancy or a dream.

Many people desired and attempted to destroy that testimony and that conviction which came to the boy's heart. But he said that he knew that God knew that he had seen it, therefore he could not deny it; it was to him a reality. It was a part of his life and he could not change it and be honest with himself nor with the Lord. In the anxieties that followed during the years of his great mission, he was visited upon many occasions by other heavenly messengers, and they, too, were realities and not just myths, or dreams, or fancies.

REALITY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

After this angel, called Moroni, had explained to the boy during that whole night many important things pertaining to his mission, he showed him the Hill Cumorah, in which were deposited the plates from which was translated the Book of Mormon. This reality was of such a character that the next morning, or perhaps about noon-time, this young man went to the place called the Hill Cumorah, because he had seen it in vision the night before and that early morning with such completeness and such plainness that he went directly to the place which was shown him in the vision, and where the plates were deposited. And with some kind of an instrument he cleared away the remaining earth that covered the stone which covered the box; and, after he had removed the covering of the stone box which contained the records, like any curious youth or man, he reached forward in an attempt to take from the sacred box its contents, when, to his astonishment, he heard a voice forbidding him, and telling him that the

time had not yet arrived for him to take these sacred treasures, and that he must further prepare himself by a course of waiting and preparation until such time as he might prove himself worthy of this great responsibility.

This incident brings to me a feeling of the greatest reality. An angel we sometimes think of as being mystical, visionary and difficult to understand in appearance. But this was a reality, a person who could give instructions and talk as one man talks to another.

And other instances of this character have so impressed me with the reality of the mission and instruction of the Prophet Joseph Smith that it is to-day a part of my very being. I believe it with all my heart, and the instructions and the great mission that have come through the Prophet Joseph Smith to the children of men in these the latter days are to me one of the greatest realities that come to us, and I believe in them with all my heart.

DIVINE BLESSINGS ARE REALITIES

The principles of the everlasting Gospel which have been proclaimed to us during this conference, until the Latter-day Saints have been very well instructed pertaining thereto, and the faith and devotion of men and women who are earnestly and sincerely striving to carry out those instructions and so to live that they may enjoy the blessings which the Lord hath prepared for them—to me these are a wonderful testimony and reality of the kindness and mercy of the Lord. I am very grateful for the association that I have enjoyed, labouring with the servants of the Lord, going about from stake to stake, from ward to ward, and conference to conference, doing what little I have been able to do to keep the work going and to encourage others to go on with it.

WORK OF THE PATRIARCHS

I was very much impressed yesterday morning, and in fact during the whole day's services yesterday, when the house was packed to overflowing, men and women standing in the doorways and in the aisles. I do not know just how many were present, but I made this comparison: In just the few brief years that I have been sustained by the people as one of the general authorities, I have been instrumental in the hands of the Lord in administering blessings of the Lord to more people than were in the tabernacle yesterday morning. Of course that was not all at one time, because that would be like speaking to them all at once. But during the years that have passed, since the conferences and the Church have sustained me as one of the general authorities, 16,006 people have had blessings recorded in my office. That gives you just an idea of the reality of this work. Throughout the stakes of the Church men have been called to assist in this important work; and I desire to bear further testimony

relative to the responsibility that has come to these men as well as the responsibility that has come to me, for their commission is of the Lord just the same as mine. Their commission is a reality, and it is of the Lord, just the same as the commission that has come to these other brethren. In their calling it is just as important as my calling is to me in my place, because it is the work of God, it is not the work of man. Their commission is through the Priesthood of God, and it is just as important in their place as my work is in my place; and I would like to encourage the Latter-day Saints to give greater honour to the men who bear the Priesthood at home. I do not want to discredit anything that I might do, because I have a testimony that my work is important. I did not always have that testimony. There was a time when I doubted it, but the Lord in His kindness has banked up testimony after testimony around me until I believe I can almost sympathize with the great Patriarch Job, because he was banked up all around with blessings and with testimonies. I hope I shall not have to endure what he passed through in order to prove the realities of those testimonies. I am perfectly satisfied with them as they are, and I hope they shall be strengthened through my further devotion to the work.

HONOUR THE PRIESTHOOD

I should like to encourage all men who bear the Priesthood to honour it, because it is of God; it is a reality and a power that is not given without a purpose to men. I have faith that the Priesthood of God has been given to men for service, to act in the name of the Lord to do His work; and when they fail to serve they fail to get His blessing. So I desire that the members of the Church will honour those men who are given this important office in the stakes of Zion, as well as honouring all other men who bear the Priesthood, from the President of the Church down to the least and last officer; because I am satisfied, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that this is the work of God, and that these men who sit before me and those who sit upon the stand to-day, who are called to be officers and leaders in the Church, are men endowed by a power that is not found anywhere else in the world, because it is the power of God that has come to men through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith and those who have succeeded him.

A PRAYER AND A BLESSING

I am very grateful that only in a few short steps I am able to trace back, through the lives of those who have received this Priesthood, that power that has been given to me. I was ordained to the power I hold to-day by the President of the Church, the Prophet Joseph F. Smith. He was ordained by the President of the Church, Brigham Young. President Young was ordained by Oliver Cowdery, who was ordained by the Prophet, who was

ordained by Peter, James and John, and they were ordained by the Saviour Himself. And so within a very few short steps I am satisfied, beyond the shadow of doubt, that the Priesthood of God is given to men to function for the Lord, that His holy purposes may be accomplished. In humility, with the faith that these realities have developed in me, and with gratitude for the testimonies I enjoy, I pray the Lord to bless the Church, all of its officers, all of its members, and all of those who are taking part in this great work, from the greatest to the least. I pray that peace and the testimony of this truth may burn within your hearts, that the conviction of its worth and honour may help you to live so that you may obtain the glorious blessings that have been predicted and pronounced upon you through your faithfulness. I bless you all, my brethren and sisters, that the enjoyment of the truth may be your portion; and that, through your faithfulness, you may overcome every barrier that may come in your pathway to serve the Lord and to keep His commandments; and that you may triumph in your efforts to bring about the holy purposes of God. I pray that these blessings may be upon all the officers and members of the Church, whether they be gathered or scattered. I pray that the time may soon arrive when the Lord will come and accept the work that is being done by this faithful people, and that they may grow and increase in faith and in principle, until they shall accomplish His work, and we shall enjoy the blessings which the Lord has prepared for us as His faithful children. I pray for these blessings in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LEEDS CONFERENCE

THE SPRING CONFERENCE of the Leeds District convened in the Carlton Boys' School, Bradford, on Sunday, March 13th, with large numbers of resident members and friends from the six organized branches in attendance. President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage were also present, as were President Theodore N. Hutchings and all of the Traveling Elders of the Leeds District, with the exception of one, who was detained through illness. Meetings preliminary to the general conference services were held on Saturday, these gatherings being devoted chiefly to reports of missionary labour and branch activities by the Traveling Elders and branch officers; counsel and instruction from the Mission officials were also given at these assemblages.

"Obedience to God's Laws is Essential to Salvation" was the theme of the morning conference gathering and was pleasingly developed through well prepared essays, choice poems and musical renditions. It was shown that obedience to the laws of God insures blessings that enrich life, not alone for the period of mortal existence but for eternity. Members of the Sunday

School taking part on the program were Marie Craven, Mabel Craven, Francis Craven, Millie Doyl, Lily Duckett, Walter Burnett, Alice Dalby, Irene Elliott, Winifred Elliott, Frank Helliwell and Arthur Holroyd. The Mission President made reference to the commendable preparation and rendition of the program and then delivered an address emphasizing the power gained through compliance with divine commandments. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Author of eternal salvation unto all those who obey Him, has prescribed the conditions for entrance into His kingdom: Faith in Him as the Redeemer and Saviour of the race, repentance of sin, and baptism by water and of the Spirit. To obey these requirements is to gain power, freedom and advancement.

The following data were included in a report given by President Theodore N. Hutchings at the afternoon session: 626 members of the Church reside in the District, 83 of whom hold some office in the Priesthood; there are six fully organized branches as follows: Batley, Bradford, Clayton, Halifax, Leeds and Pudsey. The traveling missionaries have laboured efficiently in disseminating the message of the Gospel; during the six months' period just elapsed they have distributed 42,143 tracts, 3,764 pamphlets, 23 copies of the Book of Mormon and 30 other books; 1,994 hours have been devoted to tracting and 3,946 gospel conversations have been held. Following his report President Hutchings discoursed on the subject of divine authority. A commissioned servant of the Lord when ministering under the spirit of his calling is empowered to speak and act in the name of Deity, he stated. The names of the General Authorities of the Church and the Mission Officers were presented by Elder Myron H. Brenchley and sustained by the assembly, after which Elder Brenchley showed by illustrations from scripture that communication between the Lord and His prophets is indispensable to the guidance of the Church of Jesus Christ. Elder Evan H. Jenkins referred to ancient prophecies that specified a restoration of the Gospel in the last days. He asserted that the choice seer spoken of by Joseph of old was the Prophet Joseph Smith. Elder Noble L. Chambers portrayed the broad scope of the gospel plan; those who have passed from mortality without hearing the message of salvation are nowise ineligible for the blessings awaiting the righteous, but shall have opportunity to embrace the truth beyond the grave.

With the spirit of conviction and testimony characteristic of Elders in Israel, the following missionaries delivered impressive discourses in the afternoon and evening gatherings: Elders H. Gardell Jacobson, Alma C. Tranter, Morris D. Ogden, David W. Sutton, Howard Judd and Cyril P. Manghan.

The Mission President reviewed the events that ushered in the last dispensation and pointed out that the Church reestablished

according to the word of prophecy shall never perish from the earth. Those who contend against the Church need to pause and examine their ground lest they bring upon themselves condemnation for having fought against God. Sister Talmage outlined the work of the Relief Society and showed the magnitude of the organization as a factor in rendering public service.

In the closing service of the conference the Mission President gave a forceful address on the Second Advent of Christ. We are not alarmists, our message is rather one of joyful tidings; nevertheless, we recognize that judgments shall surely come to the persistent violator of the laws of God. These are the last days immediately preceding the coming of the Son of Man; be ye wise and prepare, he admonished.

Pleasing musical renditions were given during the day by Elder David W. Sutton, Brother J. Edward Dawson and Sisters Nellie Butterfield, Florence Wilson and Amelia Doyl.

Good accounts of the conference appeared in *The Leeds Mercury*, *The Yorkshire Post*, and other papers.

MYRON H. BRENCHLEY, Conference Clerk

THE JOURNEY

I THINK of death as some delightful journey
That I shall take when all my tasks are done.
Though life has given me a heaping measure
Of all best gifts, and many a cup of pleasure,
Still better things await me farther on.

This little earth is such a merry planet,
The distances beyond it so supreme,
I have no doubt that all the mighty spaces
Between us and the stars are filled with faces
More beautiful than any artist's dream.

I like to think that I shall yet behold them,
When from this waiting-room my soul has soared.
Earth is a wayside station, where we wander,
Until from out the silent darkness yonder
Death swings his lantern and cries, "All aboard!"

I think death's train sweeps through the solar system
And passes suns and moons that dwarf our own,
And close beside us we shall find our dearest,
The spirit friends on earth we held the nearest,
And in the shining distance God's great throne.

Whatever disappointments may befall me
In pains or pleasures in this world of doubt,
I know that life at worst can but delay me,
But no malicious fate has power to stay me
From that grand journey on the Great Death route.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1927

EDITORIAL

PROPHETS TRUE AND FALSE

IN OUR present consideration the term *prophet* is used with specific meaning as "one who speaks as the inspired representative of a divine being; one who delivers divine messages, or interprets the divine will." This is a dictionary definition and expresses one of the prominent senses in which the word is used. In like manner *prophecy* is to be understood in a corresponding or related sense.

We are prone to regard prediction, or the foretelling of events, as the sole function of prophecy, whereas it constitutes but one phase of the heavenly gift. Interpretation of the revealed word of God, as voiced by prophets of olden days, is as truly the province of a later prophet as is new prediction; and his inspired message of admonition and warning may have as definite an application to past and current events as to the future.

In each of the distinctive periods of history characterized as separate dispensations of divine authority and appointment, from the Adamic to the current or last dispensation, the gift of prophecy has been abundantly manifest; *and the actuality of prophecy demonstrates the existence of prophets.*

Among the earliest scriptures extant we find clear distinction between true and false prophets—between envoys of God and emissaries of Satan respectively. The devil is an imitator, of long experience and consummate skill. His craft has been evidenced in all ages, after the fashion of his display of real but inferior power when he instigated the magicians of Egypt to discredit, by their feeble art, the signs and wonders divinely wrought through Moses and Aaron.

Whenever the Holy Priesthood has been in general and effective operation among men, the priestcraft of Beelzebub has mobilized its forces to deceive and beguile.

When our Lord rebuked and cast out the demons, concerted efforts were made by the self-proud hierarchy to belittle His miracles by making them to appear of a kind with heathenish exorcism. Similar attempts have been made to decry prophecy, healing, and all the other gifts and graces of the Spirit, which are manifestations of the living *power* of godliness, by fabricating some *form* or pretense of godliness as a deceiving substitute.

There were prophets amongst ancient Israel; and so highly

esteemed was their righteous ministry that Moses exclaimed: "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!" (Numbers 11:29).

A very simple test was given by the Lord to Israel, by which the people might know whether the prophet was of God or not. The test, having particular application to prediction or forecast, was stated as follows:

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

Apply this test, and every other that the Lord has given for like purpose, to the latter-day prophet, Joseph Smith. A prophet this man surely was, for he foretold many things and wrought mighty works. Was he of God or in Satan's employ? Have the things he predicted by virtue of his prophethood failed, so far as the season of their specified fulfilment is past? If so, he spake presumptuously and "thou shalt not be afraid of him" nor of the Church founded through his agency, nor of the proclamations that have gone forth respecting the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these days.

But should the test demonstrate that he was a prophet of the living God, then if we ignore or reject the message he delivered we have much cause to be concerned. Respecting him, together with his associates and successors in the ministry, we may forcefully apply the admonition given by the wise Gamaliel, respecting the apostles and their work in Jewry:

"And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." (Acts 5:38-39).

J. E. T.

NEWTON, THOUGH DEAD YET LIVING

SIR ISAAC NEWTON died on March 20, 1727, two hundred years ago last Sunday. He was preeminently a discoverer of truth, a revelator in the realm of natural science. Born in 1642, he passed from earth in the 85th year of his age, leaving as his legacy a life-record of incalculable worth. It is interesting to note that the year of Newton's birth was that of the death of the great astronomer Galileo, some of whose discoveries and deductions faintly foreshadowed Newton's epochal contributions to science. Even the average schoolboy knows of Sir Isaac Newton because of the story of the falling apple which, it is said, set Newton thinking as to why a body unsupported in the air should fall to

earth. Certain it is that well directed thought concerning falling bodies led to the enunciation of important laws regarding the movements of planets. It is a notable fact that Isaac Newton sought after truth for truth's sake, and manifested a pronounced dislike for personal publicity. He was able to see things in true perspective; and, while fully realizing the importance of his own discoveries and generalizations, he recognized their relative smallness as compared with those greater truths, which, while positively indicated, were yet awaiting discovery and demonstration. An utterance attributed to him, and said to have been made but shortly before his demise, though often quoted is worthy of yet further repetition; it follows:

"I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

He was given a resting place in Westminster Abbey, among those whom the world calls great; and his memory is deservedly honoured in the bi-centenary observances in Great Britain and elsewhere during the current week.—J. E. T.

THE DEMON OF CHANCE

FACTS AND FIGURES that appear in current press despatches, showing the enormous increase in the volume of betting and other forms of gambling, are so startling that but for official attestation the authenticity of the statistics might, with justifiable warrant, be challenged. When designated as official, however, figures cannot be viewed as speculative estimates, but rather must be regarded as accurate information from which significant conclusions may be drawn. Attested findings show that for the months of November and December, 1926, and January, 1927, the revenue on betting received by the Government, under the provisions of the law requiring taxation on betting, was £368,500, this figure covering wagers for horse-racing, football, whippets, greyhounds, pedestrianism and other sports. Inasmuch as this represents 2 per cent. collections on race course and track bets and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tax on office bets, the total amount that came under Government taxation during the three months was between £10,530,000 and £18,425,000.

Gambling in any of its varied forms, from the "harmless little bet" to the great sweepstakes pooled by reckless professionals, can but leave disaster in its wake, as it is based upon the pernicious desire to gain that which is of value without paying the price of honest endeavour. The tremendous loss sustained by society through gaming and all evils attendant thereto can never be

fully measured, for although men may compute the monetary deprivation incurred, none can sound the depths of sorrow and suffering brought to the hearts and homes of its victims.—WALDO L. OSMOND.

“BIBLIA”

THE HOLY BIBLE, considered both as a scriptural record and a volume remarkable for its fund of unsurpassed literature, is the subject of frequent mention in pulpit and press. Mr. Bruno Lessing, an American writer of prominence, gives the following impressive tribute to the worth of the Bible in a recent contribution:

Two Harvard professors will start in a few weeks for Asia where they will undertake research work in the library of an ancient monastery situated on the peak of Mount Sinai. This library contains many important Greek, Arabic and Syriac manuscripts, which have never been carefully examined and which are expected to throw new light upon the Bible.

It is rather a picturesque mission and its possibilities appeal strongly to the imagination. New books that belong in the Bible may be discovered. Older and more accurate versions may be found of some of the books already in the Bible. They may even stumble upon new Bibles.

The word “Bible”, from the Latin *biblia*, means “little books” . . .

As the Bible exists to-day it is the greatest, sublimest and most fascinating book that was ever published. Its writers were inspired. There are many views as to the source of this inspiration, but as to its presence there is no doubt.

Between its covers is the highest philosophy which the human mind has yet attained, the finest code of conduct and above all, the finest and loftiest spirit to cheer and animate a weary world that ever found its expression in print.

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH*

FOOD AND DRINK MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDED

SOON AFTER His baptism and the forty days of seclusion in the wilderness, Jesus returned to Galilee. We read of His presence in Cana, which was but a short distance from Nazareth. Both Jesus and His mother, as also the disciples who had accompanied Jesus from Judea, attended a wedding festival in Cana. As the feast progressed there was found to be a shortage of wine. It should be remembered that wine was the ordinary table-beverage

*This article is for use in the course of study of the Relief Societies on the second meeting night in April.

of those times; but the wine so used was weak, and not the highly fermented and intoxicating drink leading to drunkenness.

When the mother of Jesus told Him of the lack of wine, He answered her in a manner that may seem strange to us. His reply was: "Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come." Read John 2: 4. It would be unusual for a boy or man to-day to address his mother as "Woman", but in the Jewish vernacular that style of address was rather courteous than otherwise.

However, Jesus probably construed Mary's remark about the deficiency of wine to be a suggestion or request that He use His unusual power to meet the need. His rejoinder may have been in the nature of a gentle reminder to Mary that any power He possessed over the elements of nature had not been derived from her, a mortal woman, but from the Eternal Father whose Son He was; and that therefore it was not her prerogative to indicate the time for the exercise of the powers derived from His Father. The hour for the manifestation of His ability to work miracles publicly had not yet come. So far as we are able to gather from the scriptural account the wedding in Cana was not marked by any great gathering, but was, as weddings were and are, confined to the families concerned and their immediate friends.

Mary seems to have felt a personal concern in seeing that proper provision was made for the guests; and it is possible that this was a marriage feast for one of her relatives or close friends. She not only brought the matter of a shortage of wine to the attention of Jesus, but, having heard His words, she instructed the servants to do whatsoever He directed.

Possibly within the house, or upon the porch, stood six water pots. At the time determined by Himself, Jesus instructed the servants to fill these vessels with water, and afterward He told them to draw from the pots. Then, doubtless to the surprise of all who witnessed what was done, there issued from the pots not water but wine. As Jesus commanded, the governor of the feast, or as we would say the chairman or master of ceremonies, was served first; and he was surprised to find the later wine of better quality than that used at the beginning of the feast, because it was the custom to serve the better wine first and that of ordinary quality later.

We may not be able to understand by what process the transmutation of water into wine was effected within the vessels; indeed it is not recorded that Jesus spake any word of command or did anything to bring about the change. Yet all there present were witnesses of the fact that the change had been wrought. Though this miracle was witnessed by but few, it was a testimony, particularly to the disciples, that the Master was invested with superhuman powers. We read: "This beginning of miracles

did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." (John 2: 11).

On another occasion, probably about two years later, after the fame of Jesus had spread throughout the land, He said to the apostles: "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." They crossed the Sea of Galilee, near its northern end, and sought seclusion outside the city of Bethsaida. However, a multitude traveled afoot around the end of the lake, or sea, and Jesus preached to them. So interested and impressed were the people that they remained until near nightfall. They were hungry and the only food found in the company consisted of five barley loaves and two small fishes, which a boy had taken with him to the spot. Some of the disciples suggested to Jesus that He dismiss the multitude and send them to their homes; to which He replied: "They need not depart; give ye them to eat." (Matt. 14).

As Jesus directed, the people seated themselves in groups of fifties and hundreds, numbering about five thousand men beside women and children. Taking the loaves and little fishes Jesus pronounced a blessing upon the food, and then divided it and told the disciples to distribute to the multitude. The material of both bread and fish increased under the Master's hand, so that the entire multitude ate until all were satisfied, and the fragments that remained far exceeded the original amount, for we read that twelve baskets were filled with the surplus.

Yet again did the Lord provide a meal in the desert, on which occasion four thousand men, beside women and children, were abundantly fed. He blessed and brake the seven loaves and a few little fishes, which constituted all the food at hand; and again the substance was increased to meet the need. In this instance also there was an excess, sufficient to fill seven baskets. (Matt. 15).

In the change of water into wine at Cana, the water forming the great bulk was present; the feeding of the multitudes there was a great increase in substance. It is evident that Jesus possessed and exercised the power of organizing the elements, creating in the one case wine, and in the others the actual substance of bread and fish. Science has never accomplished such wonders; no purely human power could have wrought them. The Man who brought them about was in truth divine.

SUMMARY

1. We read of Jesus, His mother, and some of His disciples attending a wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. State the circumstances indicating Mary's personal concern as to adequate provision for the guests.

2. Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman." What significance do you find in this and in His further remarks to her on this occasion?

3. Six large vessels were filled with water, and Jesus caused the water to be changed into wine. What is recorded as to the genuineness and high quality of the wine?

4. On a later occasion Jesus fed a great multitude, including five thousand men, by causing a small supply of food to increase. State the important incidents of this wonderful event.

5. We read of Jesus feeding another great company, including four thousand men. Relate the account. What lesson in the matter of avoiding waste do you find in the record of these two miracles?

6. Remember that during His seclusion in the wilderness Jesus rejected the devil's suggestion to miraculously provide food for Himself, when hungry and weak; and yet He used His great power to provide wine at a wedding, and an abundance of food for hungry multitudes. What lesson do you find in this, as to the sanctity of service?

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals and Assignments—The following missionaries arrived in Liverpool on March 20th, by the steamship *Montcalm*, and have been thus assigned:

For the British Mission—Heber J. Matkin, Cardston, Alberta, Canada, to the Birmingham District; Dell Buchanan, Richfield, Utah, to the Sheffield District.

For the German-Austrian Mission—Merrill C. Squires, Brigham City, Utah.

Releases and Departures—The following missionaries have been honorably released; they departed on the dates and by the vessels specified: Elder James L. Clark, who has laboured as Traveling Elder in the Sheffield and Leeds Districts, sailed from Southampton on March 8th aboard the *Leviathan*; Elder Daniel W. Jones, who has served in the Welsh District since January 31st, 1926, and whose return home is made necessary through illness, departed from Southampton on the same vessel; Elder Eugene H. Hall of the Sheffield and Newcastle Districts, also left with these brethren on the *Leviathan*; Elder Grant M. Broadhead, of the Nottingham and Norwich Districts, left Liverpool on March 18th by the *Montrose*; Elder Henry S. Seamons, who has laboured in the Welsh District since December 3rd, 1926, and now returns home because of ill health, also sailed on March 18th aboard the *Montrose*.

Branch Conferences: Of the South London Branch, London District, on March 6th. President Harold A. Candland and Elders Hyrum J. Ward and N. Homer Hansen delivered discourses on Latter-day Saint theology.

Of the Gravesend Branch, London District, on March 6th. Elder Ivan J. Foster was the principal speaker at the services.

Of the Tipton Branch, Birmingham District, on March 13th. The theme, The Life and Light of the World, was impressively treated. President J. Forest Wood and Elder Laurence Peterson took part in the proceedings.

Doings in the Conferences: *Birmingham*—The Traveling Elders convened at Handsworth on March 3rd; gratifying reports of success in missionary activity were given and plans formulated for the future. In the evening a musical entertainment was presented by members of the Handsworth Branch.

Liverpool—To commemorate the 85th anniversary of the organization of the Relief Society, a very successful entertainment was given at Liverpool on March 16th. A brief but appropriate program included addresses by President and Sister Tahnage, and vocal and instrumental renditions by missionaries, resident members and visitors. An attractive bazaar was a commendable feature.

Manchester—The missionary Elders convened at Manchester on March 5th; each reported favourably on the labours of the past month. In the evening a Priesthood meeting was held at which officers of the branches gave good accounts of Church activities in their respective fields of work. President Landell S. Merrill and Elders Z. Vernon Derriek, James K. Kundson, Ariel G. Evans and Elmer W. Marriott spoke at the services, following which the Manchester Branch Sunday School entertained with a sketch and concert.

Newcastle—An impressive service was held at Sunderland on March 5th, at which four persons were baptized by Elders Wayne L. Shaw and Howard A. Stokes and confirmed by President Orson H. Berrett and Elders Eugene R. Budge, Harold W. England and Vard W. Meadows. A social was held in the evening.

Nottingham—On March 5th members and friends residing in the Derby Branch enjoyed a highly successful bazaar given in celebration of the 17th anniversary of the organization of the Branch Relief Society. When the Society was first established in Derby in 1910, by the late President Charles W. Penrose, Sister Elizabeth Bradley was appointed its president, and she has served faithfully and continuously in that office ever since. Incidentally, Sister Bradley's birthday falls on the same day on which Relief Society work was inaugurated in this branch. A fair and bazaar was held in Hucknall on March 12th under the auspices of the Sunday School; 150 people attended during the day.

Scottish—At a baptismal service held in Glasgow on March 4th one person was baptized by Elder Archibald J. Anderson and confirmed by Elder Melvin H. Archibald.

Sheffield—A Priesthood meeting was held in Sheffield on February 28th; the consideration of plans for future missionary work was the principal business of the day. All pledged support to the slogan, "A Greater Harvest—Sheffield!" On March 5th one person was baptized by Elder Nathaniel E. Parry and confirmed by President Raymond H. Haight. The Bee-Hive girls of the Sheffield Branch held a swarm day on March 12th; specimens of work were exhibited and seals awarded to the workers for effi-

ciency in Bee-Hive activities. Officers and teachers of the Barnsley Branch convened on March 10th: support of adopted plans was pledged by all assembled.

Ulster—An enjoyable entertainment was held at Belfast on March 4th. On March 11th a special union meeting of officers and teachers convened at Belfast; President Kendall D. Garff gave counsel and instruction pertaining to the work of the auxiliary organizations.

Welsh—On March 3rd a farewell social was held in the Pontllanfraith Branch complimentary to Elder Daniel W. Jones, who has been honourably released to return to his home in America on account of ill health. Elder Jones has ministered effectively and well in his missionary labours and leaves with prayerful hopes from his co-workers here that in the land of the mountains he will receive complete restoration to health and vigour.

DEATHS

HICKLING—Elder Thomas Hickling of the Leicester Branch, Nottingham District, passed away on February 24th at the age of 66. He has been a member of the Church since 1898.

LAYCOCK—Kathleen Laycock, six-year-old daughter of Brother and Sister Fred Laycock of the Burnley Branch, Liverpool District, died on March 3rd. Funeral services were held on March 7th under the direction of President David M. Kennedy. Elder Frank L. Koons dedicated the grave.

MILES—On February 26th at the Lodge Moor Hospital, Annie Miles, little daughter of Sister Beatrice Miles of Sheffield Branch, Sheffield District, passed away. Funeral services were held in the Burngreave Chapel at which President Raymond H. Haight presided. Interment took place in the Burngreave Cemetery.

WRIGHT—Sister Georgina Ann Wright of the Blackburn Branch, Liverpool District, died on February 27th, at the age of 88. For sixty-six years Sister Wright has served in Church duties. Funeral services were held on March 4th, at which President David M. Kennedy was in charge.

CONTENTS

Enduring Realities	...	...	177	Living...	...	...	185
The Leeds Conference	...	...	181	The Demon of Chance	...	...	186
Poetry: The Journey	...	...	183	"Biblia"	...	...	187
Editorials: Prophets True and	...	...	184	The Divinity of Jesus of Naz-	...	...	187
False	...	...	184	areth	...	...	187
Newton, Though Dead Yet	...	...	190	From the Mission Field	...	...	190

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN